



IUPUI

**OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

November 2, 2016

AASHE STARS Steering Committee
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
2401 Walnut Street
Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Members of the AASHE Steering Committee:

I am pleased to add my support to the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) submission for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS). Our campus has made significant strides in the area of sustainability over a number of years, one of the goals identified in our university-wide Bicentennial Strategic Plan.

In 2011, the IUPUI Office of Sustainability was founded with the mission of creating a culture of sustainability both on campus and in the Indianapolis community. Since inception, the office has worked across campus to infuse sustainable principles into our academics, research, campus operations, food offerings, and Indianapolis. Just this year alone, IUPUI played host to the 2016 Olympic Dive Trials, held at the IU Natatorium. Working across sectors, the Office of Sustainability successfully led efforts to make the Dive Trials Indiana's first zero waste athletic event – and the first zero waste Olympic trials event in the world – with a 93% diversion rate, realizing Indianapolis' potential to be a sustainability leader.

Just last month, IUPUI, in collaboration with Butler University, also successfully competed with 225 universities from across the country to win the \$50,000 Sustainable Campus Competition Live. Again demonstrating IUPUI's commitment to community engagement, our winning proposal outlined a plan to create a commercial composting route to service both campuses, as well as partners in Indianapolis. This project is expected to divert thousands of tons of food waste annually, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions across the city.

Additional highlights of our sustainability initiatives are IUPUI's degree offerings in sustainability across multiple schools; our Tree Campus USA designation; the creation of Indiana's only Campus Kitchen program; recognition by the EPA with the Green Power Award; our ongoing waste, energy, and water reduction efforts; our partnership with the Indiana Pacers BikeShare to install two bike hubs on campus; and our commitment to and involvement in city-wide sustainability projects.

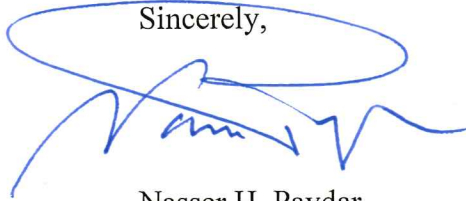
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With these accomplishments in mind, I once again offer my strong support for the submission of the AASHE STARS report, which has been prepared by leaders in our Office of Sustainability in collaboration with campus partners. At IUPUI, we look forward to continuing the pursuit of best sustainable practices as we work together to advance sustainability on our campus, our community, and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a cursive representation of the name Nasser H. Paydar.

Nasser H. Paydar
Chancellor

cc: Camy Broeker, Interim Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Jessica Davis, IUPUI Office of Sustainability